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Security Council

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Letter dated 26 December 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to draw the special attention of the Security Council to the resurgence of military activities in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

My Government invites the Security Council to note for itself once again the arrogance with which Rwanda and Uganda allow themselves to relapse into their repeated violations of the Council's resolutions.

Since 16 December 2000, the Rwandan Patriotic Army has launched large-scale operations against Government positions in Katanga province, on the Zambian border, leading into a major influx of Congolese refugees into Zambia.

Last week, Ugandan troops launched a second offensive, in Equateur province.

This resumption of military activities is taking place in flagrant violation of the Lusaka (S/1999/815), Kampala, Maputo and Harare Ceasefire Agreements, all aimed at instituting an effective ceasefire and speeding up the peace process in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

It also violates the relevant provisions of resolution 1332 (2000) of 14 December and demonstrates the manifest will of the Ugandan and Rwandan aggressors to prevent the rapid deployment of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) as specified in the above-mentioned Security Council resolution and the Harare disengagement plan, which these two countries nevertheless freely signed on 6 December 2000 and which entered into effect on 15 December 2000.

My Government would like to remind the Security Council of its statement to the press on 22 December 2000 in which Council members expressed their deep concern at the violations of the ceasefire, strongly condemned the recent fighting and called for an immediate cessation of hostilities.

My Government wishes to remind the Security Council that the first victims of these clashes are primarily innocent members of the Congolese civilian population, among whom this senseless and murderous madness of the Ugandan and Rwandan aggressors has already taken a heavy toll, inter alia through the deaths since 2 August 1998 of 3 million Congolese and thousands of internally displaced persons

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and refugees to neighbouring countries, without forgetting the major damage caused to the flora, fauna and economic infrastructures of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

My Government calls on the Security Council to react vigorously in accordance with its primary mission as the guarantor of international peace and security, and to demand that Uganda and Rwanda withdraw first to the positions defined in the front-line troop disengagement agreement signed in Harare on 8 December 2000, before withdrawing from the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in accordance with resolutions 1304 (2000) of 16 June 2000 and 1332 (2000) of 14 December 2000.

My Government invites the Security Council to go beyond verbal condemnation of the armed aggression against the Democratic Republic of the Congo by applying this time exemplary sanctions against Uganda and Rwanda, two States Members of the United Nations which, for want of appropriate constraints, have many times been prominent in committing acts of war in the territory of a third State Member of the United Nations, namely the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Consequently, my Government calls more specifically on the Security Council to order coercive measures against Uganda and Rwanda, namely, inter alia:

(a) An international embargo on the direct or indirect delivery, sale or transfer of arms to the Governments of Uganda and Rwanda;

(b) An economic, trade and financial blockade applicable to the Governments of Uganda and Rwanda;

(c) The freezing of diplomatic relations between the Governments of the States Members of the United Nations and the Governments of Uganda and Rwanda.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Atoki **Ileka**
Minister Counsellor
Chargé d'affaires a.i.